

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Category	Number of families (in lac)	Number of Ration Cards issued (in lac)	Allocation being made for the category
BPL	13.072	26.84	45864 tonnes
AAY	8.128	8.098	28340 tonnes

(f) and (g) Questions do not arise, in view of the answer for the parts (a) to (e) above.

Ban on FCI from procurement in Haryana and Punjab

3245. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIABU ASIMAZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers' unions in Punjab and Haryana have decided to bar the Food Corporation of India from procurement of wheat from the market during the current season;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sri. FCI is actively undertaking procurement of wheat by opening 228 purchase centres in Punjab and 76 centres in Haryana. As on 29-04-2007, FCI and all other Government agencies have purchased about 52.82 MTs in Punjab and 24.10 lakh MTs in Haryana.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Procurement target of wheat

3246. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the procurement of wheat during the season for Central Pool;

(b) whether Government hope to achieved the target; and

(c) how much wheat has been procured, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, based on estimates given by State Food Secretaries before the start of the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08, the procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 is estimated at 151.5 lakh tonnes.

(b) Since market arrivals of wheat in major wheat producing States was later than usual, it is difficult to predict the total procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 at these early stages of the seasons.

(c) The State-wise details of wheat procurement as on 30.04.2007 is as under:—

States	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)
Punjab	53.33
Haryana	24.41
Uttar Pradesh	0.22
Madhya Pradesh	0.02
Rajasthan	0.60
Others	Negligible
TOTAL:	78.58*

*As on 30.04.2007

Procurement of wheat

†3247. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total set target for Government procurement of wheat this year;

(b) the total quantity of wheat procured, so far, through Government agencies in various States;

(c) whether this quantity is less than the set target; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.